

This bill HR 4026 is assine, to put none to fine a description on it. Satellite radio, such as XM and Sirius, is a subscriber service. We who utilize it pay for it out of our own pockets. By what right does the Federal Government interject itself into the business practice of private enterprise when it seeks to offer legitimate, value added, services for its' paying subscribers?

By barring satellite services from providing local traffic and weather information it deprives paying customers of beneficial information.

In concert with these services, newly developed technology for on board navigation systems allows the realtime display of weather and traffic information on the navigation displays. It also provides the means for these navigation systems to advise drivers of alternate routes to avoid traffic congestion or driving into adverse weather situations. These sorts of capability are decidely in the public interest.

This technology can also be effectively leveraged by government agencies to assist the public in the advent of a local or national emergencies. So barring it is not really in the governments best interest either.

If commercial radio is so concerned about this emerging technology I would suggest they get off their back sides and leverage the competitive technology available to them in the form of digital radio. The same information carried on satellite could be provided by digital radio signal as well.

The only technical advantage that satellite radio has over terrestrial broadcasting is the broad coverage area provided by a satellite signal. But the terrestrial broadcasters have the advantage of local familiarity with their listener base.

The GPS aspect of any in-vehicle navigation system is equally available for use by both satellite and terrestrial based broadcasters. In essence, the playing field is, for all intents and purposes, level.

This bill is pointless, and unneeded. Let free market competition take its course and let the buying public decide which technology provides the best value added experience. In all likelyhood, both technologies will coexist in the long run, just as radio, television, and home information systems have come to coexist.